Chenoweth Hastings (WA) Moran (VA) Christensen Havworth Morella Clay Myrick Clayton Herger Hill Nadler Clement Neal Clyburn Hilleary Nethercutt Coble Hilliard Neumann Coburn Hinchey Nev Northup Collins Hinojosa Combest Hobson Norwood Holden Condit Nussle Conyers Hooley Oberstar Horn Obey Cook Houghton Cooksey Olver Costello Hover Ortiz Hulshof Coyne Owens Oxley Packard Cramer Hunter Hutchinson Crapo Pallone Inglis Cummings Pappas Cunningham Jackson (IL) Parker Danner Davis (FL) Jackson-Lee Pascrell (TX) Pastor Jefferson Davis (IL) Paxon Davis (VA) Jenkins Payne Deal John Pease Johnson (CT) DeFazio Pelosi Johnson (WI) Peterson (MN) DeGette Delahunt Johnson, E. B. Peterson (PA) Del.auro Jones Pickering Kanjorski Pickett DeLay Dellums Kaptur Pitts Deutsch Kasich Pombo Diaz-Balart Kelly Pomeroy Dickey Kennelly Porter Dicks Kildee Portman Dingell Kilpatrick Poshard Kim Price (NC) Dixon Kind (WI) Dooley Pryce (OH) Doolittle King (NY) Kleczka Quinn Řadanovich Doyle Dreier Klink Rahall Knollenherg Ramstad Dunn Edwards Kolbe Rangel Kucinich Redmond Ehlers Ehrlich LaFalce Regula LaHood Emerson Reves Lampson Engel Riggs English Lantos Riley Ensign Latham Rivers LaTourette Eshoo Rodriguez Etheridge Lazio Rogan Leach Rogers Ros-Lehtinen Evans Everett Levin Lewis (CA) Ewing Rothman Lewis (GA) Roukema Farr Fattah Lewis (KY) Roybal-Allard Fawell Linder Rush Lipinski Fazio Ryun Livingston Sabo Sanchez Flake Foglietta LoBiondo Lofgren Sanders Foley Forbes Sandlin Lowey Ford Lucas Sawver Fowler Luther Saxton Schaefer, Dan Maloney (CT) Frank (MA) Maloney (NY) Schaffer, Bob Franks (NJ) Manton Schumer Frelinghuysen Manzullo Scott Serrano Frost Martinez Furse Mascara Sessions Gallegly Matsui Shadegg McCarthy (MO) Ganske Shaw McCarthy (NY) Gejdenson Shays Gekas McCollum Sherman Gephardt McCrerv Shimkus McDade Gibbons Shuster Gilchrest McDermott Sisisky Gillmor McGovern Skaggs Gilman McHale Skeen Gonzalez McHugh Skelton Goode McInnis Slaughter Goodlatte McIntyre Smith (MI) Goodling McKeon Smith (N.J) Smith (OR) Gordon McKinney Goss McNulty Smith (TX) Graham Meehan Smith, Adam Smith, Linda Granger Meek Green Menendez Snowbarger Greenwood Metcalf Snyder Gutierrez Mica Souder Millender-Gutknecht Hall (OH) Spence McDonald Spratt Hall (TX) Miller (CA) Stabenow Hamilton Mink Moakley Stark Hansen Stearns Molinari Stenholm Harman Stokes Strickland Mollohan Hastert Hastings (FL) Moran (KS)

Tierney Stump Stupak Watts (OK) Torres Waxman Weldon (FL) Sununu Towns Talent Traficant Weldon (PA) Turner Weller Tanner Tauscher Upton Wexler White Tauzin Velazquez Taylor (MS) Whitfield Vento ๋ Taylor (NC) Visclosky Wicker Walsh Wise Thomas Wolf Thompson Wamp Thune Waters Wynn Thurman Watkins Yates Young (FL) Tiahrt Watt (NC) NAYS-31

Johnson, Sam Barr Petri Campbell Kennedy (MA) Roemer Rohrabacher Cox Kennedy (RI) Crane Kingston Rovce Doggett Klug Salmon Duncan Largent Sanford Filner Markey Scarborough Sensenbrenner McIntosh Hefley Hoekstra Miller (FL) Thornberry Minge Hostettler Istook

NOT VOTING-6

Murtha Solomon Woolsey Schiff Weygand Young (AK)

□ 1951

Mr. RAMSTAD changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent first for the House to express its appreciation for the fabulous work done today by our Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST).

Then, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2158, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1984

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I just learned that my name was mistakenly entered as a cosponsor of H.R. 1984, and I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as cosponsor.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1853, CARL D. PERKINS VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1997

Mr. McINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105–187) on the resolution (H. Res. 187) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1853) to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON H.R. 2169, DEPART-MENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-TIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. WOLF, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105–188) on the bill (H.R. 2169) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. SKEEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to announce that there will be no further votes tonight. We will do general debate only tonight, and I expect to be back on this bill tomorrow. I will shortly be asking unanimous consent to stack votes beginning tomorrow so that we will have the hope of finishing this bill before we leave tomorrow evening, and I repeat, we are only going to do general debate; no more votes, no amendments will be considered tonight.

REQUEST TO POSTPONE RE-CORDED VOTES DURING CONSID-ERATION OF H.R. 2160, DEPART-MENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-TIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during the consideration of H.R. 2160, that on Thursday, July 17, or any day thereafter, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment and that the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may reduce to not less than 5 minutes the time for voting by electronic device on any postponed question that immediately follows another vote by electronic device without intervening business, provided that the time for voting by electronic device on the first in any series of questions shall not be less than 15 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I understand the gentleman from New Mexico is making a unanimous consent request to roll votes tomorrow.

Let me simply say that at this point I am not at liberty to accede to that request. I would urge the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. Skeen] to withdraw the request, and perhaps we will be in a position tomorrow when we convene to accede to that request. Right now I have a number of problems on my side of the aisle that will prevent us from agreeing to it at this time.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that, and I am in total sympathy with it, but I think at least we can do the colloquies tonight and get those out of the way so that we can get to the substance matter. If the gentleman from Wisconsin would agree to that, I will appreciate it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I do not understand what the gentleman is sug-

gesting there.

Mr. SKEEN. If the gentleman would continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, we will withdraw that unanimous-consent request, and do general debate, and end it there then.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, perhaps we will be able to agree to the request tomorrow

□ 2000

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 2160) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOP-MENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMIN-ISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2160) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes; and pending that, I ask unanimous consent that the general debate be limited to not to exceed 1 hour, the time to be equally divided and controlled by the gentle-

woman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] and myself.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico.

The motion was agreed to.

□ 2000

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2160), with Mr. LINDER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

By unanimous consent, the bill was considered as having been read the first time.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the unanimous-consent agreement, the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. Skeen] and the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. Kaptur] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. Skeen].

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer the fiscal year 1998 appropriations bill for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies. The bill totals \$13,651,000,000 in discretionary spending and \$39,796,855,000 in mandatory spending for a total of \$49,447,051,000. This bill meets both the discretionary allocation of \$13,650,196,000 and its outlay allocation of \$13,967,000,000.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is the result of 13 days of hearings from mid-February through mid-March. The subcommittee took testimony from 252 witnesses, including 20 Members of Congress. We marked it up in subcommittee on June 25 and in full committee on July 9.

While our allocation was larger than last year, this bill spends about \$424 million less than the administration requested. There are only a few significant increases in the bill: WIC, rural water and housing, FDA, and meat and poultry inspection. Most of the programs are reduced or frozen at the 1997 level

This is a good bill and a responsible bill. I want to remind all my colleagues that this legislation pays for critical programs that benefit us and every one of our constituents every day of their lives, no matter what part of this great country they live in. At the same time, it spends carefully and fulfills our obligation to move towards a balanced budget.

Mr. Chairman I want to express my appreciation to the committee members and the staff, and particularly to the gentlewoman who is the ranking member, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. Kaptur], who has been a great help to me. We have a great team going, I think, on this particular bill.

We have our differences once in a while, but they are mild compared to

some we have heard in the earlier testimony before from this chair. So I want to thank all those folks who make this thing a reality, and for the hard work they do and the tremendous amount of time they put in.

Mr. Chairman, this bill represents a lot of hard work and contribution by both the Democratic and Republican Members. I believe it deserves strong support from both sides of the aisle. I have not asked for a rule on this bill because I want my colleagues to have a chance to discuss and debate any issues which they believe are important.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise this evening to commend our chair, the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. Skeen], an outstanding Member of this House to work with; all of the members of our subcommittee and the committee staff, for their wonderful leadership in putting together a solid bill. It will help keep our Nation at the leading edge for food, fiber, fuel, and forest production, as well as research, trade, and food and drug safety.

There is no question that agriculture is America's lead industry. Our farmers and our agricultural industries remain the most productive in the world, and they well understand, as we do, how difficult it is to maintain our Nation's commitment to excellence in agriculture in tight budgetary times

culture in tight budgetary times.

Our bill appropriates \$3.7 billion or 7 percent less than last year's budget, and \$2.8 billion less or 5 percent less than the amount requested by the administration. Over two-thirds of the bill's spending is dedicated to mandatory programs, largely nutrition programs like the school breakfast and lunch programs and the Food Stamp Program, which comprise nearly 70 percent of the funding in this bill.

The committee provided \$35.8 billion in mandatory programs, which is a decrease of \$4.3 billion below the amount available for fiscal year 1997, and \$2.4 billion below the budget request.

The bill includes a total of \$13.65 billion for discretionary programs, which is \$599 million more than the amount appropriated in the last fiscal year, and \$424 million less than the budget request.

Mr. Chairman, those who serve farmers and work with agriculture are taught over and over again that there is a big difference between money and wealth. Our job on this Committee on Agriculture is to help create the wealth of America through the investments that we make in food, fiber, fuel, and forestry, all essential components of production agriculture.

Market-oriented farm policy means farming for the market, not the Government, and requires investments in research, some of it high risk, in conservation, in sustainability, in education and technology transfer, which will keep agriculture competitive as we move into the new century.